



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Chiba, T., et al.  
Appl. No.: 09/576,681  
Filed: May 23, 2000  
Title: SHAPE OF MICRODOT MARK FORMED BY LASER BEAM AND  
MICRODOT MARKING METHOD  
Art Unit: 1725  
Examiner: Lynne Renee Edmondson  
Docket No.: 112780-004

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This Response is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated November 14, 2002. Applicants thank the Examiner for making the Office Action non-final. Please amend the patent application as set forth below. Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1 and 11 to read as follows:

1. (Three Times Amended) A microdot mark shape which is formed by a laser beam, on a surface of an article to be marked, which is a wafer, by using a laser as a light source, wherein

the microdot mark shape is made by one dot mark formed on each laser irradiated point,

the mark has a protrusion which protrudes in the center portion upward from the surface of the article to be marked, and

the length of each dot mark along the surface of the article to be marked is 1.0 to 15.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .